

THE BULLETIN

Vol. 2009 No. 3

California Writers Club

May-June 2009



The Bulletin is the official publication of California Writers Club, an educational nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation.

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EDITORIAL MATERIAL

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Contact Your Branch Membership Chair

OUR MISSION

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

The 3 Ps (Or, Why a Conference Is Not a Reality TV Show)

By Tanya Egan Gibson, Marin

Ah, conference season! You walk in, pitch memorized, nametagged, and first five pages in hand, ready to . . .

. . . berate Very Famous Editor during a morning one-on-one for not recognizing your manifest talent?

. . . interrupt lunch conversation between your roommate and Very Famous Agent about their mutual adoration of labradoodles to “unobtrusively” slip in a plug for your novel?

. . . sidle up to Very Famous Author at an evening social event and let her know she *needs* to read your manuscript because she’ll love it and will want to help you get an agent (*her* agent, not Very Famous Agent, who is a jerk for having ignored you) and could she maybe take it back to her room (since you happen to have all 600 pages on you) and start it tonight?

I know you’re thinking, *I’d never do that. Who would DO that? No one does that!* But, here’s the thing: people do. Nice-in-real-life people, even. Nice-in-real-life-but-feeling-desperate-because-they’ve-paid-for-a-conference-and-worked-so-long-and-hard-on-their-manuscripts-and-now-something-has-to-happen people.

Um, people? (Not *you*, but the aforementioned-multi-hyphenated people.) A conference isn’t a reality TV show. Simon isn’t judging you. No one’s going to vote you off the island. And there’s more than one winner.

Attending The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, in particular, garnered me in-

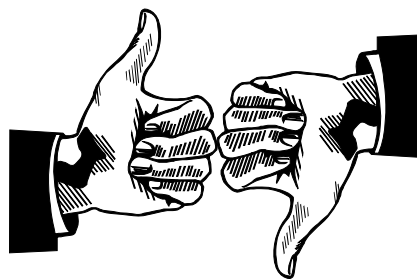
valuable feedback on my writing from participants and staff alike, a network of other writers, and even a recommendation from an author to his agent—who eventually became *my* agent. But all this happened over time—I attended for the first of four times in 2000, my agent agreed to represent me in 2006, and my novel will be published this spring (with blurbs by several SVCW

staff authors on the book jacket). Conferences, I learned over all that time, are more about *process* than *product*. And so, to that end, here are three “P-words” to remember if you find yourself morphing into the kind

of desperado who tries to hand a Very Important Anybody a manuscript during a bathroom break. In the bathroom.

Patience. If your manuscript isn’t ready, it isn’t ready. Take feedback and criticism and resolve to improve. Even if you *do* have a great finished product, you can’t force things to “happen” at a conference. You’ll be more relaxed (and more fun to be around for *everyone*, including the Very Important Someones) if you go in hoping to make contacts instead of expecting a contract. This is not an *American Idol* audition, your one shot at getting “discovered.” (And you don’t have to do/say/wear anything outrageous to “get noticed.”)

Politeness. Very Important People are *people*. Treat their feelings and needs as important and respect their desire not to be pitched 24/7. Remember, too, that agents, continued on page 2



Those Lies We Writers Tell Ourselves

"I write because I must."

"I write because I can't not do it."

"I write because that's who I am."

I hear statements like this and can't help feeling a twinge of envy toward the speaker

JOYCE'S VOICE



By Joyce Krieg
Central Coast Branch

and a stab of sorrow for myself. Oh! – To be one of those fortunate ones for whom writing comes as naturally as breathing, who can't wait to pick up paper and pen, who lives for those creative moments at the keyboard.

The 3 Ps of Conference Attendance

continued from page 1

editors and authors are trying to give you advice to improve your craft, not cut you down. You don't earn votes from the audience for "standing up for yourself" when Simon says you sound off-key or picked the wrong song. What you earn is a reputation for being difficult. Be equally polite to the other attendees. Don't brag or hog time or attention. You are not Head of Household, Leader of the Tribe, or this week's Top Model.

Perseverance: If something doesn't go as you hoped—you write YA urban fantasy and get assigned to an agent whose specialty is war memoirs, or an editor lets you know that the novel you thought was finished is many drafts away from being "done"—make the best of it and resolve to forge onward. There is more than one show. And there are infinite episodes—most of which take place without an audience, just you and your computer screen staring back at each other while you do the real work.

Marin branch member Tanya Egan Gibson relishes any opportunity to use reality television as a metaphor. Her debut

As for me, writing is sheer torture, an agonizing struggle over every word, a session in hell. It's the most difficult assignment I can imagine that doesn't involve lying on a table in a delivery room. If I could figure out a way to never put another word on paper for the rest of my life, I would die a happy woman.

Then why do I keep doing it?

Well, it's pretty much the only thing I seem to be somewhat good at, the only semi-marketable skill I can claim. I still cling to the pathetic hope that one of these days, I'll manage to crank out something that will sell briskly enough to save me from living in Section 8 housing and subsisting on handouts from the food bank when I'm too old to continue holding down a day job.

Beyond that, I do happen to believe that those of us who are gifted with a particular talent, ability or skill set have an obligation to use it. Not just for our own amusement, financial gain, or self-aggrandizement, but – trite as this may sound – to somehow make the world a better place. A karmic giving back to the universe, as it were.

So I slog on, hefting my pen and engaging in the daily battle with the blank page.

novel, How To Buy a Love of Reading, will be published by Dutton on May 14, 2009. Web: www.tanyaegangibson.com.

Should The Bulletin Go Electronic?

The CWC Central Board has formed a sub-committee to investigate whether delivering *The Bulletin* in electronic format is worthwhile. In other words, *The Bulletin* would be emailed to members who request it instead of delivered on paper via the U.S. Postal Service. Electronic delivery could save the club money, but we don't know if this would be a popular member option. We need your opinion! Please send an email to Central Board member Sandy Moffett, sm@sandymoffett.com, with the message, "Yes, I would like email delivery of *The Bulletin*" or "No, I like *The Bulletin* postal mailed to me." You may also mail your comments to Sandy at 3919 Noel Place, Bakersfield, CA 93306. Please send your comments by the end of June. Thanks for your input.

Over the years, I have developed a few methods for fooling myself into thinking the journey is less arduous than it actually is: Morning Pages, which I talked about in the January-February issue of *The Bulletin*. Writing every day no matter what, ideally at the same time and in the same place. Hemingway's trick of finishing the day's work in the middle of a sentence, so the next day he'd immediately have something to write.

And yes, some days the writing is easier than others, and I do experience those moments of joy, the sheer bliss of being in the creative flow. That feeling you natural-born writers get to experience all the time.

Or do you?

Could it be that we're all clinging to the same leaky lifeboat, feeding ourselves lines like, "I write because I must" only because we heard some famous writer say it once and it felt wise and wonderful? While deep inside, we know the truth: it's a hard, lonely and desperate undertaking.

I write because I don't know what else to do.

I write because it's the only thing I'm half-way good at.

I write because I don't know any better.



CWC Bulletin 2009 Schedule

July-August 2009

Deadline: June 26, 2009

September-October 2009

Deadline: August 28, 2009

November-December 2009

Deadline: October 30, 2009

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CIRCULATION

Dave George (Mt. Diablo)

PRINTER

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Submissions: CWC members are invited to submit articles related to writing and the writing life via e-mail to Editor Joyce Krieg. Be sure to indicate "CWC Bulletin" in the subject field. Submissions are subject to editing for length and grammar. Sorry, we are unable to print news of members' sales and publications.

Sail On! The Zen of Interviewing

In a conversation with a fellow writer a few days ago, the discussion came around to interviews. We talked about some of the interviews we have done and it reminded me that doing interviews is, at least to me, one of the rewards of being a writer.

During my few years as a newspaper correspondent I had opportunities to interview paupers and princes, congressmen and constituents, seamen and admirals, doctors and patients, criminals and victims, celebrities and John Does . . . , the whole wide spectrum of folk.

Many stories that resulted from those interviews made it to the front page, above the fold — headliners, the most coveted spot of a newspaper. When I gave up newspaper writing and turned toward magazine writing, one interview garnered me the cover of *Dream Merchant* magazine, another the cover of *Wings* magazine.

I drew on my experiences doing interviews and created a workshop. I will share some of that with you. For me, three methods of interview exist: face-to-face, telephone, and mail. I have listed them in order of preference.

Face-to-face, in my opinion, is the best because you not only get to meet interesting people in person, you get to see their reactions to tough questions and their joy when you push their fun buttons. Over the years, I have learned to pick up signs that tell me when an interviewee is equivocating or when I am probing too deep into a taboo

subject by reading body language.

In those cases where you cannot make direct contact with your subject the telephone is the next best choice. At least you get to hear the person and while you cannot see the facial expressions and other body language, you can pick up the subtle hints of where the discussion is going.

The last choice, interviews by mail — email or USPS, is the least rewarding. It can also be the most difficult. You send a list of questions and wait for replies. Every interview leads to follow-on questions so you mail another batch of questions and wait for replies. Then, there is the question of who is drafting the responses to all the questions. Is it the subject? On the other hand, is it a colleague? A staffer? In any case, the responses are mostly unsatisfying.

Interviews have opened many doors and given me the opportunity to get behind the scenes. In one case, I spent an entire day in the back offices of NASA talking to test pilots at the Dryden Test Facility. I started out with one objective, to talk to one pilot about one exotic airplane. By the end of the day, I had met almost a dozen people, including two astronauts, and collected a couple hours of anecdotes on tape.

Do not be shy about asking for interviews regardless of what you are writing. I collected some great insights for a novel by talking to law enforcement officers. Without interviews, I would not have been able to co-author a book on computer technology with my brother. Not only can you get information but also you can have fun doing it. 🗑️

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Casey Wilson
CWC President

April 19 Central Board Meeting Draft Minutes

April 19, 2009

California Writers Club Central Board

Location: La Quinta Inn, Oakland, CA.

Representatives present:

Berkeley: Linda Brown, Central Coast: Joyce Krieg, East Sierra: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, Inland Empire: Harry Ramage, Long Beach: Allene Symons, Marin: Kara Levine (Proxy), Mount Diablo: David George, Orange County: Carol Celeste, SF/Peninsula: Dale King, Redwood: Kate Farrell, Sacramento: Margie Yee Webb, San Fernando Valley: Glenn Wood, South Bay: Dave LaRoche, Tri-Valley: Kathy Urban, West Valley: Casey Wilson (Proxy), Writers of Kern: Sandy Moffett

A quorum was present with 15 votes. Others present: Casey Wilson, president.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. by President Casey Wilson in the Chair with Carol

Celeste, Secretary, present.

Dale King was appointed membership chair effective July 1.

Action: Linda Brown will set up a form on the forum for posting branch activities. Minutes for the January 25, 2009, meeting were presented and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Summary report dated January 1, 2009, to March 31, 2009, prepared by Kathy Urban, was presented.

Wells Fargo checking account balance was \$31,878.54.

Wells Fargo CD maturing Nov. 15, 2008, \$18,010.20.

Wells Fargo CD maturing Dec. 12, 2008, \$5,325.57.

Total assets: \$55,214.31

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive: Casey reported that members of the Executive Committee: 1) facilitated an SFV reorganization meeting; 2) purchased

software for *The Bulletin* production; 3) attended and IRS seminar for nonprofits; 4) participated in a webinar for public relations promotion; 5) appointed David Burr, West Valley Branch, as webmaster; 6) secured permission to use Lapel Pins Plus artwork for centennial items; 7) renewed Federal Central Contractor Registrations (CCR) for federal grants programs; 8) filed a Statement of Information with CA Secretary of State; 9) filed a correct Group Exemption list with the IRS.

Projects in Progress: 1) trademark registration; 2) continuing support of San Fernando Valley; 3) resolving IRS Publication 78 discrepancy; 4) untangling charitable trust registration with CA Attorney General; 5) seeking scholarship grants; 6) branch charter certificates; 7) verifying branch driver information requirements for insurance.

Action: Casey will email a 501 (c) (3) letter to all reps about new IRS rules.

Action: Carol will prepare a special charter
continued on page 4

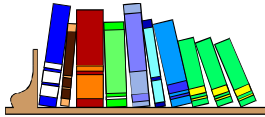
Our Members Announce

Mari Lynch Dehmler,
www.FineWordworking.com. Established
1981. Nationally renowned book editor.
831.375.6278.

Railroad 1868, Along the Historic Union Pacific, a fascinating new view of railroad history, has now been published by Marin member **Eugene Miller**

Diane H Davis has begun a specialty publishing company. Details available at www.davis-publishing.biz.

Congratulations to **Kiyo Sato** for *Kiyo's Story: A Japanese-American Family's Quest For The American Dream* (Soho Press)! – Sacramento



The Battle for the Spirits of Mankind by **V.W. Thomson** - 14 Subjects organizes the Bible from the beginning of history to Eternity and prepares the reader for the Judgment Day – Xlibris Publications (888) 795-4274, www.xlibris.com

Put Your News Here!

“Our Members Announce” is a low-cost method to reach over 1,000 writers. Just \$20 buys an announcement of three or four lines (depending on spacing issues for web addresses) in *The Bulletin*. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Compose your announcement and send it to Sandy Moffett, sm@sandymoffett.com.
2. Make out a check for **\$20, payable to California Writers Club**.
3. Mail your check to Sandy Moffett, 3919 Noel Place, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

Deadline for the July-August issue: June 20, 2009.

George Snyder announces the release of *ROAR AND THUNDER*, his personal motorcycle history. Available at all book outlets.

Patricia Hamilton won the IRWIN Award from BPSC for “Most Innovative Ad Campaign” for her book, *California Healthy*. www.parkplacepublications.com

Redwood Writers congratulate **Linda Loveland Reid** on the publication of her first novel, *Touch of Magenta*. More info at www.lindalovelandreid.com

Sandy Moffett is proud to be part of the newly released, *Cup of Comfort Devotional for Mothers and Daughters*. This beautiful, hard bound book is available at major outlets. For a signed copy, visit www.sandymoffett.com

Draft Central Board Minutes – April 19, 2009

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certificate for the Berkeley branch as the original CWC organization, as soon as founding information is delivered.

Action: Kathy Urban will email a copy of the volunteer driver insurance form to all reps and branch presidents for appropriate members to complete. Forms to be held by branch presidents.

Motion: by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, second Kate Farrell, to approve the colorized version of the centennial logo developed by Lapel Pins Plus. Branches will have the choice of using it or the black-line version at 9:40 a.m. Passed unanimously.

Membership: A report dated April 16, 2009, prepared and presented by David George shows 1,180 members. He recommended branches collect renewal dues now and hold checks until after July 1. Life Membership: offer of \$599 ends Dec. 31.

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Standards: Dave LaRoche was appointed committee chair.

Finance: Action: All reps to post cost savings suggestions and comment on others' posts by next Sunday, April 26.

Education/Outreach:

Motion: by Allene Symons, seconded by Dale King, to change the name and scope of the Education Outreach Committee to New Branch Development moved at 11:2 a.m. Passed unanimously.

New branch report: Fremont Area Writers working on active status qualifications.

The Bulletin: Member ads were obtained from 8 people @ \$20 ea.

Action: Joyce to check USPS space restriction on ad space for non-profit mailing rates.

Electronic publication: Joyce gave pros and cons, with discussion of other cost cutting and revenue-generating measures.

Action: The committee will survey members for opt-in electronic delivery and present results at the July meeting. **Bulletin Committee:** Chair Joyce Krieg, Dave George, Sandy Moffett, Dale King, Kathy Urban.

Scholarship: Action: Committee chair Allene Symons, Casey Wilson, David George to consider options.

Ad Hoc Committees

Centennial: Donna McCrohan Rosenthal reported that the Centennial committee has: 1) leveraged the CWC Centennial to get free meeting facilities for the January CB meeting; 2) purchased and distributed a media

list to branches; 3) sent two press releases to the media list; 4) added a Centennial page to the Web site; 5) searched for a time capsule location; 6) obtained sample shopping bags with Centennial logo to give to independent book stores; 7) received more in donations for four Centennial items than they cost.

Action: All reps bring opinions to the July CB meeting about extending the Centennial year to June 2010.

Action: Joyce will email a photo of the four centennial items to reps.

Joaquin Miller Park: Linda Brown presented ideas and information on the park.

Motion: by Linda Brown, second Donna McCrohan Rosenthal to approve up to \$300 for a Writers Memorial Grove sign at the park entrance at 3:00 p.m. The motion passed with Ayes- 13 Nays-0 Abstentions – 1.

Motion: by Linda Brown, second Donna McCrohan Rosenthal to approve a display based on the literary landmarks map in the park Ranger Station/information center subject to needed approvals at 3:20 p.m. The motion passed with Ayes – 12 Nays – 0 Abstentions – 2.

Joyce presented a virtual tour of the park
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Celebrating Our Centennial at Festival of Books

By Allene Symons, Long Beach

Volunteers hailing from eight branches of the California Writers Club converged at the UCLA campus to help celebrate CWC's 100th anniversary at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books.

Northern and Southern California were both represented, with members traveling from Marin, Sacramento, South Bay, and Mt. Diablo branches, as well as from East Sierra, Inland Empire, Long Beach and Orange County.

Clear, crisp weather set the tone for an energetic two days of panels, speakers, food, outdoor readings and performances

at the nation's largest book event. Along with a banner proclaiming CWC's centennial year, the booth displayed seven panels with 34 new book covers in addition to the 200-plus covers submitted over the past five years, adding up to around 250 book covers written by CWC members.

The booth was three deep with visitors at times. All told, more than 800 people stopped by the booth, where volunteers explained about our organization and handed out brochures showing all CWC branches along with meeting times, locales, and website addresses. 🖋️



CWC President Casey Wilson (right) explains the benefits of membership to a Festival of Books visitor. As one of the few booths devoted to writing, CWC always draws a crowd.



Top left: Allene Symons (left), Long Beach, and Carol Celeste, Orange County, with the CWC banner.

Above: Tim Chizmar (left) and Dave Gamboa, both of Inland Empire, having an intense discussion with a visitor.

Below: Carol Celeste chats up a festival-goer.

Below left: The CWC booth once again holds down prime real estate in the shade. Photos by Allene Symons (Long Beach) and Cyndy Largenticha (Inland Empire)



Draft Central Board Minutes

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with special effects. She was charged with sending a copy of the PowerPoint file and script to all reps.

Action: Casey will have the CWC Web site updated by August 1.

Action: Joyce to send the JMP presentation with script to all reps.

Action: All reps urge branches to consider planting a tree to expand the Writers Memorial Grove throughout the state.

Map Subcommittee: in progress.

Unlimited Publishing: Kate Farrell noted 5 manuscripts maximum would be submitted by branches for the pilot project.

History Documentation: Linda Brown suggested each branch put its history on its own Web site rather than print a book due to lack of interest and input. SFV will contribute. Send branch histories to Dave Sawle at netalteier@earthlink.net.

Anthology: David George clarified that the deadline referred to in the January update referred to the editorial committee's internal deadline for reviewing and categorizing submissions. The October printing deadline may not be met.

Nominating: Sandy Moffett, committee chair, reported that all present officers would run for re-election.

Old Business:

Charter Certificates: Carol Celeste distributed certificates to attending reps who sup-

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As president Al Levenson puts it, the Berkeley branch “must be on steroids.” Among other things, the Fifth Grade Writing Contest is in its third decade and reports a record number of entries, and the branch is sponsoring three critique groups, with a fourth in the works. Berkeley’s publicity committee, headed by Linda Brown, is heavily involved in revitalizing CWC’s historic involvement with Joaquin Miller Park. And, as a member recruiting tool and service to members, Berkeley sponsored a “members only” workshop featuring Charlotte Cook, acquisitions editor at Komenar Publishing, who helped members polish those all-important opening pages of their novels and short stories.

Write Angles –

Al Levenson, Editor

Central Coast

Central Coast member Gwyn Weger recently experienced many a writer’s dream: a day-long session of publicity training and media coaching, courtesy of the publisher for her novel *East Garrison*. Gwyn reports, “Advice ranged from how to sit during an interview, branding yourself as the ‘expert,’ gaining third party credibility through endorsements, speaking in 10-second catch phrases or sound bites, and being sure to answer four questions: what is my bottom-line message, why is my book unique, what makes me the expert on the topic, and where can the audience go for further information.”

Scribbles – Joyce Krieg, Editor

East Sierra (Ridge Writers)

Ridge Writers is celebrating the CWC Centennial by sponsoring a youth writing contest on May 9 at the Ridgecrest branch library. Three age groups are represented: five to eight, nine to eleven, and twelve to fourteen. Meanwhile, several Ridge Writers have returned from a trip to Hemet to attend the 86th annual Ramona Pageant, based on the 19th century romance novel by Helen Hunt Jackson.

Writers of the Purple Sage –

Liz Babcock, Editor

High Desert

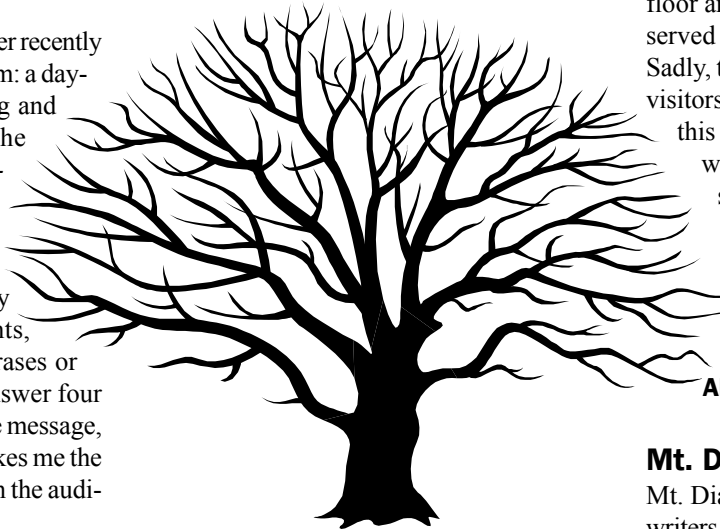
Lots going on in Apple Valley, with the High Desert branch conducting a successful membership drive and recruiting volunteers for key positions, including publicity and

Branching Out

“Nuggets from the Newsletters”

newsletter editor, and resumption of critique groups. President Carol Warren has issued an intriguing challenge to members: to put a writing-related goal in writing and bring it to the next meeting. She’ll store them in a safe place, and at the December meeting, the goals will be taken from hiding, and High Desert members will review their progress and talk about what did and did not work. Meanwhile, guest speaker, journalist J’Amy Pacheco, left High Desert members with a tantalizing quote: “I don’t believe in writer’s block. If you’re blocked, you’re not living hard enough.”

Ink Slinger – Naomi Ward, Editor



Inland Empire

Most writers are familiar with the tried-and-true techniques for ending a scene and leaving the reader wanting more: provocative dialogue, cliff-hanging action, or introducing a new danger. But columnist Mike Foley says a moment of discovery can be just as powerful. “When a person or character has a realization or new discovery, the scene can often end because the story has been immediately strengthened.” A sense of discovery sheds new light on a story by giving the reader a glimpse of the future and clarifies the situation. “You don’t always have to leave readers hanging in order to keep them hooked. Sometimes, a bit of new information is enough. Let readers share the discovery and they won’t put your story down.”

Fresh Ink –

Laura Hoopes, Editor

Long Beach

The Long Beach branch usually meets in a snug library community room. But this spring our CWC branch is testing several

concepts in search of ways to attract name authors, more visitors and prospective members. Fortunately, we receive good pre-meeting press for our meetings and enjoy listings in two newspapers. The library system also allows us to post our flyers. But it turns out that two authors who agreed to speak in April and May, who both have current books from midsized or major publishers, requested that a retailer sell their books for us. We arranged with the nearby Borders Books & Music to co-host our April meeting at their store. Speaker Eric Stone, author of the Ray Sharp mystery series, gave a terrific presentation. But it turned out that the seating area was on the second floor and far from the cash register, which served as a deterrent to sales and signing. Sadly, to our surprise, we did not draw new visitors. Some of our regulars even skipped this retreat to a commercial venue, and we have yet to fully poll those who stayed away to find out why. This coming month, though, we will try a new approach with our next speaker, so as we used to say in the pre-digital age of television: stay tuned.

Allene Symons, Program Co-Chair

Mt. Diablo

Mt. Diablo celebrates a new generation of writers with its Young Writers Contest, open to public and private middle school students in Contra Costa County. The awards banquet will be held this month and features poet David Alpaugh and mystery writer Camille Minichino. The students compete in poetry, short story and essay/narrative non-fiction for cash prizes and an invitation to the awards presentation. This is Mt. Diablo’s major public outreach and is always an exciting and rewarding time for the branch.

The Write News –

Catherine Accardi, Editor

Orange County

Several Orange County members participated in Literary Orange, a springtime celebration of books and authors at UC-Irvine. Newsletter Editor Cora Foerstner reports that despite the wide variety of authors and

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Branching Out

continued from page 6

books represented at the event, several common themes emerged: "Be honest in your writing, write for yourself, learn your craft, stay true to yourself, and never give up." She adds, "These are things we all know. Yet it is a boost to be reminded that writing is personal and our careers are shaped by our ethics."

Orange Ink – Cora Forestner, Editor

Peninsula

As the Peninsula branch continues to plan for the Jack London Writers Conference this coming October 10 and 11, president Tory Hartman reminds us, "One of the many benefits of a writers' conference is finding kindred souls. Your family probably doesn't understand your struggle and journey as a writer. A conference is a good way to get positive reinforcement, improve your craft, and find those new friends souls who, like you, enjoy creating fiction or putting together great non-fiction."

**The Peninsula Writer –
Linda Okerlund, Editor**

Redwood

Getting ready to write a query letter? Pat Tyler shares six rules for doing it right: 1. Choose the right contact person and make sure you have the name spelled correctly. 2. Come up with a short, snappy title for your piece. 3. Reveal your approach. 4. Share your publishing or life credits. 5. Let the editor know when the piece will be finished and ready to turn. 6. Close on a positive note. "Most important of all – if you receive a rejection, submit again to the next place(s) on your list. Do it now!"

**The Redwood Writer –
R.K. Koslowsky, Editor**

Sacramento

Sacramento is busy getting the word out about CWC, thanks to the energetic direction of President Margie Yee Webb. Sacramento was a sponsor of the Northern California Publishers and Authors conference in April, and on May 16 will be participating, along with the Peninsula branch, in the 5th annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration in San Francisco. Sacramento membership brochures were available at a recent writers conference at Cosumnes River College. "We are exploring other opportunities

to promote CWC and our members," Margie reports. "Volunteer and contribute to our club's success and it will contribute to your success!"

Write On – Julie Bauer, Editor

South Bay

South Bay has much to celebrate. The branch just passed the 200 mark, with the membership roster standing at 207 as of this writing. As an incentive to early membership renewal, Membership Chair Marjorie Johnson will hold a drawing at the May meeting from among all those who have already renewed. The prize? Free dinner at a future meeting. South Bay rounds out the month of May with a writing workshop for teens on the 30th. Presenters include Martha Alderson (characters and plot), Jack Hasling (poetry), Victoria Johnson (short scripts), plus a panel on how kids can get their voices heard, and a humorous luncheon talk by David Breithaupt.

Writers Talk – Dick Amyx, Editor

Tri-Valley

You can spend a great deal of money at conferences and workshops in the quest to become a better writer, but as columnist Cindy Lucky reminds us, in these recessionary times that are plenty of low-cost alternatives. Read voraciously. Remember, library books are free unless you forget to return them on time. Practice. Write at least a little something every day, no matter what. Join a critique group and a writing community. "Look for opportunities to publish your work even if it's for free. Why? It builds confidence, gets your name out in the writing community, and helps you build a platform."

**Write Around the Valley –
Kelly Pollard, Editor**

West Valley

Freelance writer/editor Tina Glasner spoke to West Valley in March and offered a variety of helpful tips for new writers. Among them: Go to the library and "look for books that might be similar to yours – study books that have already sold and everything about them. You're not going to copy from others, instead you are looking for details of organization, style, publishers, agents, cover examples, length, and all sorts of other details that you don't have to mimic, but that you should be aware of." She also suggests writing magazine articles. "This is a good way to polish your ideas and see if

California Writers Club Bulletin
the public is interested. Don't expect to make much money from magazine writing. Use this work as an adjunct to your book concept."

In Focus – Kathy Highcove, Editor

Writers of Kern

WOK recently finished a highly successful member workshop, reports President Carol Black. "Our speakers covered the entire spectrum of the writing world. Mike Russo provided us with plenty of book titles which are helpful to every writer, no matter what the need. Janice Stevens and Pat Hunter showed us how to collaborate between a writer and an artist to create a picture book, or a book with pictures. Stories of how they work with their publisher were both informative and entertaining. Donna McCrohan Rosenthal brought us into the world of finding an agent, editor and/or publisher. After all was said and done, it was a very informative morning."

The Write Way –

Marty Gorsching, Editor



Central Board Minutes

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plied information and recognized Dave LaRoche's development of the design and copy.

New Business:

San Fernando Valley report: Glenn Wood, chair of the leadership committee for the reorganization, reported on progress.

Glenn asked who is eligible to vote for new officers. The CB agreed that paid members as of June 30, 2008, were eligible.

Action: Kathy will investigate if SFV will be covered by CWC liability insurance during reorganization.

Motion: by David George, second Dale King, to transfer \$376.93 to SFV for reinstatement purposes at 4:20 p.m. The motion passed with Ayes – 13 Nays – 0 Abstentions – 1.

Motion: by David George, second by Dale King, to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol Celeste, Central Board Secretary



Editor's Note: David Mathew Gray's "Adventures in Comparative Linguistics" will return in the July-August issue of *The Bulletin*.

Two Incredible Conferences Coming in October

Dale King, chair of SF/Peninsula's **Jack London Writers Conference**, announces that the program is complete with an impressive

roundup of fabulous speakers and wild minds. Brochures will go out by the middle of May. Registration fees for this incredible two-day conference, scheduled for October 10-11, 2009, start at \$295. The conference includes: 36 workshops, four keynote speeches, breakfast and lunch served both days, and Friday and Saturday night socials with refreshments, a no host bar, and films adapted from keynote speakers' books.

Jack London Conference tee-shirts have arrived and can be purchased for \$10 (S-M-L-XL) or \$15 for XXL. The design shows a large picture of Jack London in the middle, flanked by the centennial logo on one corner and a wolf on the other. The tee-shirt is a neutral color with black print, 100% cotton Hanes of a very good quality. The tote bags being given out at the conference with



San Francisco / Peninsula California Writers Club
Jack London Writers Conference
 October 10 - 11, 2009
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City
 Two Incredible Days with Successful Authors and Teachers!



registration are designed to match the shirt. Shirts will be available at the monthly membership meetings, and will soon be advertised online (with photo) for purchase using Pay Pal. To order by phone, call (650) 726-1272.

A short drive to the north takes us to CWC's Redwood branch, busy planning the all-day **Redwood Writers Conference**, scheduled for October 24 at the Flamingo Hotel and Resort in Santa Rosa. The conference will feature agents, editors, and writers from all genres, who will offer their insights and experiences in the craft of writ-



ing at beginning through advanced levels in a relaxed and friendly wine country setting. Keynote speakers are mystery writer Steve Hockensmith, Tamin Ansary, author of *West of Kabul, East of New York*, and poet Al Young. For details, go to www.redwoodwriters.org/conference.html



Writing for *The Bulletin*

CWC members are always invited to submit their work for publication in *The Bulletin*. We're looking for short essays, inspiration, how-to, humor, poetry, even short-short fiction, as long as it has something to do with writing or the writing life. Submit as a Word doc attachment to Editor Joyce Krieg, joyce@joycek.com.

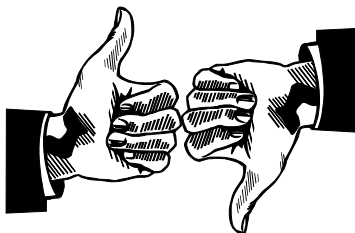
Please indicate "CWC Bulletin Submission" in the subject field. If Joyce's spam blocker bounces your message, just hit "Reply" and it should go through. If you are using the new "docx" version of Word please submit in "rtf" format.



The Bulletin

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**A Conference
 Is Not
 a Reality TV Show!
 See Page 1.**